

Living Above the Fray

What Are You

2 Timothy 2:1-7

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¹ You then, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others. ³ Endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. ⁴ No one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian affairs—he wants to please his commanding officer. ⁵ Similarly, if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not receive the victor's crown

2 Timothy 2:1-7

unless he competes according to the rules.⁶
The hardworking farmer should be the first to
receive a share of the crops.⁷ Reflect on what I
am saying, for the Lord will give you insight into
all this.

The challenge

² And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

Be committed to spiritual reproduction

Three Models

- Soldier
 - Single-minded devotion
- Athlete
 - Committed to submission
- Farmer
 - Working with a future orientation

The commission



How can we turn our knowledge about God into knowledge of God? The rule for doing this is simple but demanding. It is that we turn each Truth that we learn about God into matter for meditation before God, leading to prayer and praise to God.

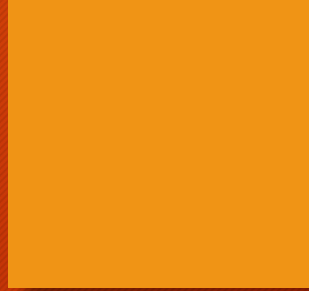
— *J. I. Packer* —

AZ QUOTES

Meditation

Meditation is the activity of calling to mind, and thinking over, and dwelling on, and applying to oneself, the various things that one knows about the works and ways and purposes and promises of God.

It is an activity of holy thought, consciously performed in the presence of God, under the eye of God, by the help of God, as a means of communication with God.



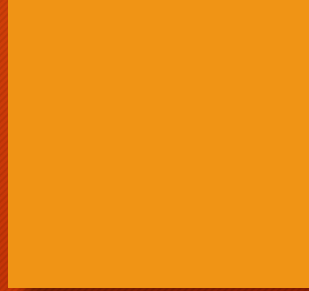
It is an activity of holy thought, consciously performed in the presence of God, under the eye of God, by the help of God, as a means of communication with God. Its purpose is to clear one's mental and spiritual vision of God, and to let His truth make its full and proper impact on one's mind and heart. It is a matter of talking to oneself about God and oneself; it is indeed, often a matter of arguing with oneself, reasoning with oneself, reasoning oneself out of moods of doubt and unbelief into

a clear apprehension of God's power and
grace.



a clear apprehension of God's power and grace. Its effect is ever to humble us, as we contemplate God's greatness and glory, and our littleness and sinfulness, and to encourage and reassure us – 'comfort' us, in the loud strong, Bible sense of the word – as we contemplate the unsearchable riches of divine mercy displayed in the Lord Jesus Christ And it is as we enter more and more deeply into this experience of being humbled and exalted that our knowledge of God increases,

and with it our peace, our strength, and our joy.
God help us, then, to put our knowledge about
God to this use, that we all may in truth “know
God.”



To Go . . .

- Which image best describes your Christian life?
- How does Paul's view of the Christian life differ from the perspectives that we hold today?
- How would understanding your life in these terms change the way that you live your life?